



BRIGHT FROM THE START
Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
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Sonny Perdue
GOVERNOR

Holly A. Robinson, Ed.D.
COMMISSIONER

MEMORANDUM

Date: July 1, 2008

To: All Institutions Participating in the CACFP Program

From: Jackie Romain, Director, Nutrition Services

RE: Automatic Eligibility for Free Meal Benefits Extended to All Children Enrolled in Head Start.

The purpose of this memo is to inform institutions that automatic eligibility for free meal benefits, including free milk, has been extended to all children enrolled in Head Start and participating in child nutrition programs.

Head Start serves primarily children from families with household incomes at or below the Federal poverty level. However, a small proportion of children in families with household incomes above the poverty level may be served. In the past, only those children who were income eligible for Head Start were considered automatically eligible for free meals in the child nutrition program.

Public Law 110-134 makes any child enrolled in Head Start automatically eligible for free meals without further application or eligibility determination. Therefore, even a child who is not from a household with an income at or below the poverty level is automatically eligible for free meals if they are enrolled in Head Start.

Institutions may now establish eligibility of all Head Start enrollees through documentation provided by the Head Start program. All reimbursable meals served to children enrolled in Head Start may be claimed at the free rate. Institutions may submit revised claims to claim all reimbursable meals served to Head Start enrollees that were not previously claimed at the free rate. All such reimbursement meals served on December 12, 2007 and beyond may be claimed.

Institutions interested in submitting revised claims for Head Start enrollees served on December 12, 2007 and beyond are required to submit an official request to Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (Bright from the Start) via email. Requests should be directed to Corretta White, Nutrition Services, at coretta.white@dec.al.ga.gov by July 31, 2008.

For questions concerning this memorandum, please contact Sonja R. Adams, Policy Administrator, at (404) 651-8193.

JR:sra